

## **MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING**

Location: Conference Call  
Date: November 6, 2007  
Time: AZ Time: 1300 – 1550  
Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Dave Cagle (Acting Chair), Bill Van Pelt; NMGFD – Matt Wunder, Renae Held; USDA FS – Kathy Taylor; USDA APHIS WS- Keel Price; USFWS – John Morgart, John Slown; and John Oakleaf (IFT Liaison); and WMAT – Absent

### **A. Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Agenda Review**

Dave Cagle called the AMOC meeting to order at 1305. After a brief welcome the agenda provided from the October 17, 2007 AMOC meeting action items was followed with several additions.

### **B. Updates**

Colby Gardner was hired as the new Arizona Game and Fish Wildlife Specialist I. The two vacant Wildlife Technician positions will be interviewed for on November 7. J. Brad Miller left the USDA – WS, and Sterling Simpson is acting as the Arizona Wildlife Services Wolf Specialist.

### **C. Agency Costs of Mexican Wolf Conservation Sheet**

**Action Item:** Bill Van Pelt will email a soft copy of the annual cumulative agency costs to Bruce Sitko for posting to the web page.

### **D. Discussion on SOPs 5, 6, 11 and 13.**

Discussion centered on the possible modifications of SOPs 5, 6, 11 and 13. It was decided to not revise these SOPs until the NEPA scoping period was over. In the interim, Clarification Memos would be written to address some issues within the SOPs. Some of these issues were discussed at the August AMOC/Directors meetings.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 5, 6, 11 and 13, and submit them for AMOC and IFT review by November 21.

### **E. Proposed SOP 25.0 - Media**

John Morgart stated that John Slown had drafted SOP 25.0 with assistance from Vicki Fox, who recently left the Service.

## Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee

### Summary Notes for AMOC Meeting

November 6, 2007

Page 2 of 5

**Action Item:** John Morgart will send the AMOC Chair the draft SOP 25.0 by November 9. The Chair will send out for AMOC review by November 13.

#### F. Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Area Signs

Shawna Nelson contacted the state sign vendor and received quotes for 20" X 30" signs, which were \$31.41 per sign for an order of about 110 signs. Discussion on the need to replace all "Wolf Country Signs" since this activity was not scheduled or budgeted. Cathy Taylor stated that Greenlee County was interested in replacing their signs, and fulfilling their request was a good faith gesture. It was agreed to look at replacing the Greenlee County and other vandalized signs as a priority.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will work with Shawna Nelson to determine price per unit signs for smaller bulk orders. Renae Held will look into the possibility of NMGFD contributing toward purchasing a portion of the sign order.

#### G. Roles and Responsibilities – Review and Edits

To date, the AMOC chair has received editorial comments from Dave Bergman and Cathy Taylor on the Roles and Responsibilities Document.

**Action Item:** Any additional comments to the Roles and Responsibilities Document are due to Dave Cagle by November 13, 2007.

#### H. December 11-13, 2007, AMOC/Directors Summit meeting

Discussion was presented on how long the directors' agenda needed to be to sufficiently cover all items. It was decided the directors only needed to be present on December 13 with a recommended starting time of 8:00 a.m. A main topic of discussion will be an update on the twelve public NEPA scoping meetings that are scheduled from November 26 – December 8.

John Morgart stated that anybody interested in staying at the housing at Sevilleta need to contact Joslyn Bustamante December 2 to reserve a room. You should have already received this contact information from e-mail from Bill Van Pelt. The AMOC meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2007. So, plan your travel needs accordingly.

#### I. Population Monitoring Document Review

**Action Item:** Arizona Game and Fish will internally review the Population Monitoring Document and will send it back to the IFT by November 21, 2007.

#### J. Range Riders

Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee

Summary Notes for AMOC Meeting

November 6, 2007

Page 3 of 5

**Action Item:** Arizona Game and Fish will internally review the Range Rider Proposal and send it back to the IFT by November 13, 2007.

K. Forest Service Special Use Permit issued to Mexican Wolf Ecotourism businesses

Cathy Taylor stated the Gila National Forest is taking the lead on issuing the Forest Guardians the Special Use Permit (SUP) for their scheduled field tour. There are specific restrictions on the SUP such as limiting vehicle access to existing roads, no howling permitted, do not stay around any located wolf kills, and increase distance if encountered wolves sense their presence.

The committee requested a copy of this SUP, and also requested that a template of general guidelines and restrictions be applied to all future SUPs for wolf ecotour related activities on National Forest lands be developed.

**Action Items:** Cathy Taylor will forward a soft copy of the Forest Guardian SUP and a draft SUP template to the AMOC Chair by November 21, 2007.

L. New Mexico Concept Statements Document

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Director, Bruce Thompson issued a draft Concept Statement titled, "Innovative Wolf Management Project – New Mexico" last August. This document was briefly reviewed at the August Director's meeting. Matt Wunder stated that comments by November 9 to either Bruce Thompson or Matt Wunder.

**Action Item:** Send any comments on the New Mexico Concept Statement to either Bruce Thompson or Matt Wunder by November 9, 2007.

M. New Mexico Wolf Monitoring Flights

Renae Held stated that she is working with Shannon Barber-Meyer to re-schedule some fixed wing telemetry flights where New Mexico will fly some additional flights in January 2008. New Mexico has committed to flying a total of 15 monitoring flights this fiscal year. Renae also said their department will be using another employee, Mark Watson, to fly a portion of future telemetry flights. This action will free up Field Team members to work more on the ground to handle various issues. The observer would call in telemetry locations into the Alpine Field Office that day, and mail in the data sheet the next day.

N. Discussion on Elimination of Monthly Wolf Location Map

The IFT has determined it requires approximately 12 hours to construct the color and black and white maps depicting the monthly wolf telemetry locations. These maps are not part of any SOP requirement, and are redundant since weekly written location

## Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee

### Summary Notes for AMOC Meeting

November 6, 2007

Page 4 of 5

information is posted on the Mexican Wolf web site soon after flights are completed. Discussion was presented on the merits of this information to the public. It was recommended to measure the number of "hits" on each of the three location data forms, (written weekly locations, black and white monthly map and monthly color map).

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will meet with Bruce Sitko to determine the number of viewers who visit each of the wolf location data sets.

**Note:** Dave Cagle met with Bruce Sitko on November 7, and was informed that only the specific web pages can be measured for number of visits, and specific links could not be measured for the number of visits. It is recommended to talk about the monthly maps at the next AMOC meeting (November 20).

#### O. Update on Public NEPA Scoping Meetings

John Slown presented information on the upcoming public NEPA scoping meetings. DJ Case and Associates are putting together the panels, which AMOC members have made comments to wording and photos used. They will post them on the website when they are completed. They are also working on a one page handout to pass out to all meeting attendees when they enter the meeting facility. This page will provide background information and will allow for written comments on the backside. D.J. Case and Associates are also preparing a short Power Point presentation that will show repeatedly at one of the station sites. D.J. Case will also prepare name tags for all agency participants. It was recommended that participants should dress at a level to what the public will be wearing. Logo shirts and new jeans or slacks were appropriate, but no suits or law enforcement uniforms.

John also stated that he needs more participation during the second week of meetings (December 3 – 8), and requested that more sign up to assist. It is not intended to pull IFT members out of the field to work these meetings, and other agency and/or county representation is requested. Matt Wunder stated New Mexico Game and Fish has scheduled two representatives at all New Mexico meetings, and will have one at the Alpine, Arizona meeting. John Slown and John Morgart are scheduled to attend all 12 meetings. The weekday meetings will open doors to the public at 5:00pm, and the Saturday meeting will open doors at 11:00am. The first meeting is scheduled for November 26 in Flagstaff. It is important that all participants are on the same page when interacting with the public.

**Action Item:** All attendees of the Flagstaff meeting need to be there at 1:00pm for an orientation. All attendees of subsequent meetings need to be at the facility one hour prior to the public entrance time.

#### P. Aspen Pack - Additional Depredation, IFT Recommendation and AMOC Recommendation

## Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee

### Summary Notes for AMOC Meeting

November 6, 2007

Page 5 of 5

On November 2, 2007 two dead cattle were located in the area where the Aspen pack has been present. An investigation by WS determined that the cattle died prior to the removal of AM863 and two pups. One of the cattle was confirmed as a wolf depredation and the other was a probable wolf depredation. The IFT prepared a recommendation as a result of these recently discovered depredations. The IFT unanimously recommended the removal of f1046 in the most efficient method available.

Discussion was presented on formulating an AMOC recommendation. Keel Price stated that their agency was limited in their ability to carry out the current removal order, this is a real burden on their personnel to monitor traps throughout the night, and he prefers removal by the most efficient means possible. Members of the primary agencies presented their recommendations. A majority recommendation to continue with the October 26, 2007 USFWS removal order was supported by USFWS, NMGFD and USFS. A minority recommendation was made by AGFD to remove f1046 by the most efficient means available. WS provided another minority recommendation to remove both f1046 and AF667 by the most efficient means possible.

#### Q. Durango Pack Update

John Oakleaf presented an update on the nuisance situation with members of the Durango pack. The IFT started intensive hazing on October 22 around the **LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION REDACTION**. On the early morning of November 1 the wolves were at the **LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION REDACTION**. The wolves have not been located by telemetry since 8:00am on November 1. Telemetry flights flown on November 5 and 6 failed to turn up any signals. John Oakleaf recommended a ceasing of hazing activities since the wolves are not near the residences. He also recommended AMOC review the original translocation recommendation for m1008 and f1028. This recommendation has been sent to the AMOC chair, but requires support prior to putting those wolves together to breed.

**Action Item:** Arizona Game and Fish will conduct an internal review of the translocation recommendation and send the recommendation back to the IFT by November 13.

#### R. Next AMOC Meeting

The next AMOC meeting is scheduled for November 20, and will be conducted by conference call. The meeting will begin at 1:00pm MST and may run until 5:00pm. The phone number is **NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION REDACTION** and the participant code is **NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION REDACTION**.

The meeting adjourned at 1550.